

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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3 1. A method for enhancing the development of a cellular immune response to a
4 preselected antigen in a mammal comprising exposing ex vivo or in vivo dendritic
5 cells from said mammal to a conjugate comprising said preselected antigen
6 covalently bound to an antibody to DEC-205, and promoting maturation of said
7 dendritic cells ex vivo or in vivo by CD40 ligation.

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9 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said preselected antigen is a peptide antigen or a
10 protein antigen.

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12 3. The method of claim 3 wherein said peptide antigen or protein antigen is
13 conjugated to said antibody to DEC-205 by means of a cross-linking agent.

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15 4. The method of claim 2 wherein a light chain or a heavy chain of said antibody to
16 DEC-205, and said peptide antigen or protein antigen, are present on a single
17 polypeptide chain.

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19 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said CD40 ligation is achieved by exposing said
20 dendritic cell to an agonistic anti-CD40 antibody.

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22 6. A method for enhancing the development of tolerance to a preselected antigen in
23 a mammal comprising exposing ex vivo or in vivo dendritic cells from said

1 mammal to a conjugate comprising said preselected antigen covalently bound to
2 an antibody to DEC-205, and preventing maturation of said dendritic cell ex vivo
3 or in vivo.

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5 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said preselected antigen is a peptide antigen or a
6 protein antigen.

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8 8. The method of claim 7 wherein said peptide or protein is conjugated to said
9 antibody to DEC-205 by means of a cross-linking agent.

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11 9. The method of claim 7 wherein a light chain or a heavy chain of said antibody to
12 DEC-205, and said peptide antigen or protein antigen, are present on a single
13 polypeptide chain.

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15 10. A conjugate for enhanced delivery of a preselected protein or peptide antigen to a
16 dendritic cell, said conjugate comprising said preselected protein or peptide
17 antigen covalently bound to an antibody to DEC-205.

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19 11. The conjugate of claim 10 wherein a light chain or a heavy chain of said antibody
20 to DEC-205, and said peptide antigen or protein antigen, are present on a single
21 polypeptide chain.

- 1 12. A method for enhancing the delivery of a preselected molecule into a dendritic
2 cell comprising the steps of preparing a conjugate comprising said preselected
3 molecule and an antibody to DEC-205, and exposing said conjugate to a dendritic
4 cell, wherein said conjugate is delivered into said dendritic cell.